

Application Serial No. 10/509,640  
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006

PATENT  
Docket No. CU-3923

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

JAN 23 2007

Claims 3-6 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claim 4 is canceled without prejudice; and claim 3 is amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action, claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, π2, as being indefinite.

In response, claim 3 has been amended to recite: -- at the state where the screw pipe has been to be combined with the entrance of the ceramic bottle--. This amendment is supported at least by FIGS. 7-9 and the relevant descriptions in the specification. More specifically, claim 3 has been amended to clarify that a plasticity process is undergone at the state where the screw pipe has been combined with the entrance of the ceramic bottle and that the screw pipe is incinerated during plastering, thereby to form a screw projection which is engaged with a plastic cork with a screw portion such as threads on the inner side of the entrance of the ceramic bottle. Thus, the phrase "maintaining the screw pipe to be combined with the entrance of the ceramic bottle" has been corrected into -- maintaining the screw pipe at the state where the screw pipe has been combined with the entrance of the ceramic bottle--. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the office action (page 3), claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,947,310 (Wagner) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,618 (Hwang). In the office action (page 4), claim 6 stands rejected

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under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Wagner and Hwang, and further in view of JP61-60456. The "et al." suffix is omitted in a reference name.

In the office action (page 5), claim 4 is indicated as being allowable if it is rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

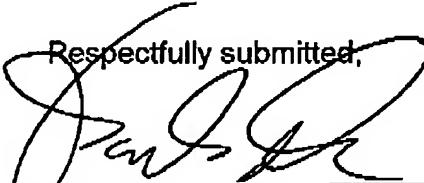
In response, claim 3 has been amended to include all limitations of the allowable claim 4. Claim 4 has now been cancelled without prejudice.

As to claims 5-6, the applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable at least since they depend from claim 3, which is now considered allowable as indicated above.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 5-6, now pending in this application are now considered allowed and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance in the next action.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

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Respectfully submitted,  
  
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